

Message Text

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61

ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SS-14 EUR-08 INR-05 SP-02 L-01

ARA-06 IO-03 H-01 /048 W
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P R 081736Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6527

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMCONSUL DOUALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 0206

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, IV

SUBJECT: COCOA-REOPENING NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. GENEVA 7982(NOTAL)?. LONDON 17308 C. STATE A-7228 DTD 12/2/75
D. STATE 300220

1. UPON RECEIPT OF REFTEL D, I ATTEMPTED TO SEE MINAG SAWADOGO IMMEDIATELY, BUT DUE TO HOLIDAYS HE WAS UNAVAILABLE UNTIL TODAY. WE HAD A FORTHCOMING AND INFORMATIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

2. I INFORMED SAWADOGO THAT USG LOOKS FAVORABLY UPON A GOIC INITIATIVE TO REOPEN COCOA NEGOTIATIONS, DRAWING ON ALL ARGUMENTS IN PARA 6 OF REFTEL D. SAWADOGO REPLIED THAT GOIC IS WILLING IN PRINCIPLE TO TAKE THIS INITIATIVE. IN FACT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ICCO IS CURRENTLY IN ABIDJAN DISCUSSING
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THE AGREEMENT WITH GOIC. THESE TALKS WILL CONCLUDE ON

SATURDAY, AND SAWADOGO PROMISED TO INFORM ME OF OUTCOME. MOREOVER, THERE IS A PROPOSAL FOR A MEETING OF HEADS OF STATES OF AFRICAN COCOA PRODUCING NATIONS WHICH MIGHT GIVE PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUSH FOR REOPENING NEGOTIATIONS, BUT ANGOLAN SITUATION HAS CAUSED POSTPONEMENT OF THIS MEETING AND NO DATE IS YET SET.

3. SAWADOGO REITERATED HIS VIEW THAT USG PROPOSALS WERE INADEQUATELY STUDIED DURING THE OCTOBER NEGOTIATIONS, AND WERE GIVEN ESPECIALLY SHORT SHRIFT BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, WHICH WAS REPRESENTED BY "BUREAUCRATS, NOT POLICY MAKERS", AND HE AGREED THAT OUR AMENDMENTS COULD SERVE AS BASIS FOR NEW NEGOTIATIONS. HE ASKED THAT USG TAKE ON THE BURDEN OF CONVINCING CONSUMER NATIONS, ESPECIALLY EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, THAT REOPENING THE NEGOTIATIONS IS NECESSARY. HE ALSO SUGGESTED USG URGE MEXICO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FORMALLY TO ADVISE THE INTERNATIONAL COCOA COUNCIL THAT THEY DO NOT RPT NOT INTEND TO JOIN NEW AGREEMENT. HE DOES NOT THINK EQUATORIAL GUINEA IS ENTITLED TO A VOTE UNDER PROPOSED AGREEMENT, BUT MEXICO, DR AND IC TOGETHER WOULD ADD UP TO 20.6 PERCENT OF PRODUCER VOTE, ENOUGH TO KILL AGREEMENT. FYI: SAWADOGO SAID THAT IT IS FEELING OF AFRICAN NATIONS THAT MEXICO WILL NOT RPT NOT MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT TO ICCO, NO MATTER WHAT SOLIS THINKS, BECAUSE PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WANTS TO BE THE LEADER OF THE THIRD WORLD. END FYI.

4. SAWADOGO ASKED, SINCE PART OF OUR PROPOSAL IS EXTENSION OF PREVIOUS AGREEMENT FOR ONE YEAR, IF UNITED STATES WOULD JOIN OLD AGREEMENT. I REPLIED I THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION AS CONGRESS DIDN'T LIKE OLD AGREEMENT EITHER, BUT THAT WE COULD POSSIBLY FIND WAYS TO COOPERATE MORE CLOSELY WITH THE MEMBERS OF PREVIOUS AGREEMENT FOR AN INTERIM PERIOD. SAWADOGO UNDERSTOOD AND ASKED US TO CONSIDER SUCH WAYS. I HOPE TO REPORT EARLY NEXT WEEK ON THE OUTCOME OF HIS TALKS WITH THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.

5. CONCLUSION: SAWADOGO STILL FAVORS RENEGOTIATION IN ICCO FORUM, NOT UNCTAD SINCE HE CONSIDERS LATTER TOO SLOW-MOVING. HE ALSO WONDERED WHETHER NORTH-SOUTH TALKS COULD BE USED TO PUSH FOR RE-OPENING. HE AGREES WITH ALL OUR CONFIDENTIAL

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POINTS EXCEPT ON PRICE RANGE. HE NEEDS ASSURANCES, HOWEVER, THAT USG WILL ALSO JOIN IN EFFORTS TO REOPEN NEGOTIATIONS. SMITH

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